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FEB 1

U. S. Department of Agriculture
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Housekeepers' Chats

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Subject: "An Old-Fashioned Flower Garden." Information about flowers from W.R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry; new recipe for Peanut Brittle Ice Cream, from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Note: This program takes the place of "Planning the Kitchen Garden," which will be released later.

---ooOoo---

Saturday morning I dropped in to see W. R. B., my friend the Garden Specialist. I reminded him that I'd like very much to have some up-to-date information on "Old-Fashioned Flowers."

"Old-fashioned flowers?" said W.R.B. "Do you mean such old-fashioned flowers as hollyhocks, zinnias, cockscomb, blackeyed Susans, marigolds, heliotrope, and four o'clocks? These flowers, and a host of others, belonged in the quaint and charming gardens of our grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. But with the introduction of new flowering plants -- plants with high-sounding names -- many people forgot all about the flowers of our grandmother's day, Aunt Sammy."

As I told W.R.B., there are still a great many old-fashioned people among us, who love the old flowers, who would rather have a bed of gay petunias, a border of hollyhocks--

"Hollyhocks!" said W.R.B. "They're one of my favorites. According to my idea, nothing can beat hollyhocks for planting in a border, especially along the back fence, or in a strip of ground, between a walk and a division fence. In most localities, hollyhocks bloom early in the summer. Therefore, they should be in a mixed border, with other plants, such as zinnias, four o'clocks, larkspur, marigold, petunias, and scarlet sage. This would be too much of a mixture for planting in the front yard, but it's all right for the backyard."

"And speaking of petunias, they have been wonderfully improved, since the days when our great-grandmothers so carefully planted and tended their flower gardens. We can have our choice of single or double flowered petunias, in a great variety of shapes and colors. Once I saw a hillside, covered with a solid planting of petunias. It was a most gorgeous display of color and beauty. Some of the fringed double petunias are exceptionally beautiful, Aunt Sammy."

"What about pansies?" I asked. "They're one of my favorites. When I was a little girl, I used to imagine that pansies were people. Really, they do have the most impish expressions, on their velvet countenances. Sometimes I fancied they were making faces at me."

"Yes," said W.R.B. "Pansies are among the most interesting of all the flowers -- and such a variety of color -- no two flowers are really alike. Pansies are one of the most satisfactory of the smaller growing flowers, and are easily grown in most localities. Wherever the winters are mild, pansy plants

can be set out in the fall, and will bloom quite early in the spring. The seed can be sown in a bed, early in September. The plants can either be moved to the flower border in the fall, and mulched with compost or fine straw to protect them, or they can remain in the bed over winter and, be transplanted during the early spring."

"What about zinnias?" I asked.

"Zinnias," said my friend, "are at the head of the list, for rough places and background borders, where you want something that will grow quickly. Then there is cockscomb, with its compact heads like a rooster's comb.

"Bachelor's buttons are easy to grow from seed, in fact, they become a weed in some places. Most of the old gardens contained a bed of Dianthus, or pinks. The flowers of the old-fashioned pinks are brilliantly colored, and very fragrant. They are easy to grow from seed, and make an excellent edging plant, along a walk or a border. Sweet alyssum is another of the old-fashioned flowers that are good for use as border plants."

"What about climbers?" I asked. "Are any of the old-fashioned climbers worth planting now?"

"Yes, indeed," W.R.B. replied. "I guess morning glories, especially the Japanese, are most popular. One of the prettiest things I ever saw was a side porch, covered with morning glory vines. Such a variety of color! Morning glories, like most flowers, want a rich soil, and plenty of water. Plant the seeds in the early spring, and put up some strings for them to climb on. Morning glories are especially fine for covering the netting around the poultry yard, or for hiding an old shed.

"Cypress vine is another of the old-time climbers. In common with the morning glory, the cypress vine has a bad habit of self-seeding and becoming a weed.

"Scarlet runner bean is another of the old-time climbers. It is today one of the best, for some localities and purposes. Like the morning glory, it is easy to grow. However, the scarlet runner does not have the habit of self-seeding, or becoming a weed. The beans of the scarlet runner vine can also be eaten, like garden beans.

"Nasturtiums, dwarf and tall, have their place in the modern old-fashioned garden. The dwarf sorts are especially desirable for planting along borders, and the tall kinds for training on wire netting, where you want to hide something. Nasturtiums have a habit of becoming infested with little black plant lice, but one or two good dustings, with three per cent nicotine dust, when the weather is hot, will kill the insects."

"Just a minute," I interrupted W.R.B. "Let me write that down. If nasturtiums are infested with black plant lice, give them one or two applications of three per cent nicotine dust, when the weather is hot. If it weren't for insects, and other troubles that beset the path of the modern gardener, life might lose its interest, W.R.B., but I for one, would just as soon be spared the trouble of fighting bugs!"

"Think of the flowers, not the bugs," said my friend. "Did you ever see Canterbury bells? They were found in most of the fine old gardens. Canterbury bells are beautiful. They are especially suitable for borders in which other plants like hollyhocks, are grown. There are two special kinds of Canterbury bells those with regular bell-shaped flowers, and those with flowers shaped like a cup and saucer. Then there is the digitalis, or foxglove, of the old gardens -- nothing that grows is more beautiful than the tall spikes of brilliantly colored bell-shaped flowers of foxglove.

"These are just a few of the old-fashioned flowers I started out to tell you about. Perhaps I'll have time to tell you more, next week. But if you and your friends are planning old-fashioned flower gardens for this year, you'd better get your seed catalogs, and order your seeds in plenty of time. Southern gardeners can plant most of the seeds in beds, in the garden, but those who live in the Central and Northern states should provide some shallow boxes filled with good, sifted soil, and start some of the plants in the house. You can get good information from the seed catalogs, or from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C.

I told W.R.B. how much we appreciated his advice on flowers, and I also told him that if we were in doubt, we might be writing to him. Send your flower-garden questions to me. I'll forward them to W.R.B., and I'm sure he'll answer your letters satisfactorily.

Pencils now, please, for one of the most delicious recipes ever sponsored by the Bureau of Home Economics. Peanut Brittle Ice Cream. Four ingredients, for Peanut Brittle Ice Cream:

1 quart single cream	1/2 cup sugar, and
1-1/2 to 2 cups ground peanut brittle	1/4 teaspoon salt.

I'll repeat the four ingredients, for Peanut Brittle Ice Cream: (Repeat)

Put the sugar in 1 cup of the cream, and bring to the boiling point. Add the peanut brittle, and stir until well blended. Mix with the remaining cream, and add the salt. Use a freezing mixture of one part salt, and four to six parts of crushed ice. Turn the crank of the freezer slowly. After freezing, remove the dasher, place on the cover, and pack the freezer with more ice and salt. Let stand for an hour or more, to ripen.

Tomorrow: "With Oranges and Grapefruit."

